

TASMAN-NELSON CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

NEWSLETTER

May 2016 (est.. Oct. 2009)

To promote, help and assist conservation in our area

Greetings,

Regional Group Reports:

World Fish Migration Day - Event on the 21st May

Our region will be 'on stage' to open the proceedings for the world in an event set up to highlight the plight of fish trying to migrate up and down our rivers and creeks and the helping hand people are giving. World Fish Migration Day is being celebrated with over 300 events in 55 countries. <http://worldfishmigrationday.com/> The local event will be held at the old Reservoir up from Easby Park in Richmond and you can expect to be informed with short speeches and videos, as well as entertained with games for kids, including a release of "fish balls" down the fish ladder.

"While there are significant problems for fish migration in Tasman and across the world, we also want to highlight what is being done to improve it" says Trevor James, Resource Scientist at Tasman District Council. "For the 15 species of fish in Tasman District that must migrate up and down streams as part of their life cycle, an overhanging culvert or weir can have a major impact on the success of the population. And that seriously impacts the whitebait catch".

You can do lots of good things to improve water quality and stream habitat with improvements in the way we manage the land, including fencing and tree planting, but we will not get a healthy freshwater ecosystem unless we also provide for fish passage. Council is punching above its weight when it comes to progress on this issue and this event is a great opportunity to showcase this to our country and the world. Over the last 12 years Council has chipped away and assessed about 3000 structures in waterways and remediated over 300 to provide fish passage. In Golden Bay, where there is particularly high fish diversity and abundance, nearly all Council roads have been assessed and remediated, where necessary. Mr James says "We are only about 15 person days away from completing such work on private land within that part of the region. We have worked out systems that are low cost and proven to work through research. Due to the low cost nature of the work and high benefits of this work, it stacks up well as a priority across our work programmes. Council staff have also taken a leading role in sharing this information through the NZ Fish Passage Advisory Group (see <http://www.doc.govt.nz/fishpassage>).

"This is the first ever time that Council has been involved in running this promotional event and we think that this is a fantastic opportunity for good publicity and to raise awareness of an issue that we believe is not given the attention it deserves across Aotearoa".

To Get There -

Follow the signs for about 800m from the Easby Park car park (off Marlborough Crescent, Richmond). The site is on Reservoir Creek where Council engineers have restored fish passage over a historic dam that supplied water for drinking to Richmond since the 1890s. Various school children will symbolically release fish at the fish pass that is the spillway to the, now-lowered, dam.

Trevor James | Tasman District Council
Resource Scientist - River Health and Wetlands
DDI | (03) 543 8562 | Mobile | 022 6127681
Email trevor.james@tasman.govt.nz
www.tasman.govt.nz/index.php?EnvironmentalInformation



**Please Come and Join Us -
At a Community Planting Day on the Waimea Inlet**

Sunday 8 th May	9am - 1pm	-	Hoddy Estuary Park Off Coastal Highway near Research Orchard Road
Sunday 15 th May	9am - 1pm	-	Manuka Island Follow sign to Manuka Island from Redwood Road
Saturday 21 st May	9am - 1pm	-	Dominion Embayment Meet 43 Apple Valley Rd. Turn off between Bronte Rd & Mapua Dr
Sunday 29 th May	9am - 1pm	-	Stringer Creek Westdale Road opposite The Playhouse cafe

Please bring gloves, spade and drinking water. Wear solid footwear and clothes suitable for the weather conditions. Tea and coffee will be provided.

Battle for the Banded Rail is a Waimea Inlet Forum project working with local communities and supported by TDC and DOC. It aims to increase the number of banded rail and other estuarine birds on the Waimea Inlet by restoring habitat and trapping predators.

For more information email us at bandedrail@gmail.com or phone Kathryn 544 4537



Keep Richmond Beautiful: Ron Argue Reports:

Plant summary for 2015-16

The following shows the spread of plantings by KRB from May 2015 to end the end of the planting season. As most plants were natives, in the years ahead the native bird life will benefit.

Cycleway	2300 plants
Planted 2300 plants comprising 1100 between Beach Road and Solly's Yard, 300 plants at Recycle Park, 400 plants opposite Headingly Lane and 500 plants along the cycleway at Brightwater.	
Rabbit Island	1700 plants
Rough Island	750 plants
Sandeman Reserve	420 plants
Neiman Creek	260 plants
Wills Gully	supplied 180 plants
Valhalla Reserve	652 plants
Dellside	400 plants
Reservoir Creek Valley	599 plants
Torrent Bay	1000 plants
A KRB team helped with the Torrent Bay spinifex planting = approx. 1000 plants.	
Grand Total	8261 plants

If anyone is interested in joining KRB, contact Ron Argue rpargue@xtra.co.nz or Collin Andrews colin@snap.net.nz

Rotoiti Ramblings (St Arnaud) Peter Hale Reports:

Now that we are heading into winter most of our lines will revert to monthly checks through till October. Catch rates have continued to be very low and this has been the trend since May last year. The catch statistics for this year are:

January – 24 rats, 8 stoats, 10 mice, 17 possum, 12 hedgehog, 8 rabbits, 1 cat and 1 bird (sparrow)

February – 16 rats, 4 stoats, 1 ferret, 8 mice, 12 possum, 13 hedgehog and 5 rabbits.

March – 18 rats, 1 stoat, 2 ferret, 12 mice, 8 possum, 10 hedgehog, 2 rabbits, 2 cats and 1 bird.

April – 20 rats, 2 stoats, 25 mice, 9 possum, 11 hedgehog and 1 cat.

Compare these figures to December 2014 when we caught 455 rats, 12 stoat and 541 mice which dramatically demonstrates the rodent explosion following a beech mast. Numbers continued to be high until May 2015 when the population collapsed due to the end of the food bonanza and have continued to be low since.

Cheers, Peter

Contacts: Phone : 03 5211955 Email : pajhale@gmail.com <http://www.friendsofrotoiti.org.nz/>

Friends of Cobb: Chris Petyt Reports (cpetytnz@gmail.com) (extracts from his newsletter & emails)

29th March; Hi Everyone, We went up the Cobb yesterday with a total catch of 23 rats and 2 weasels. 2 Blue ducks on the way back – they've also been seen lately at Payne's Ford, Shambala's ford at Onekaka, and on the Anatoki at One Spec so keep your eyes open. I was surrounded by a small flock of chattering Kakariki along the quarry road...

24th April; A good team went up the Cobb on 19/20th April, checking traps and listening for kiwis. 7 people were involved in the kiwi survey, including 2 kids who didn't last the 2 hour listening time, covering 10 survey points from the cottages to Tent Camp, and we know kiwi were recently heard at Fenella as well. Some folk were lucky and heard kiwi; results from Marian later, but all enjoyed the experience. The highlight for me was 2 who that came in to the pool in front of Chaffey's Hut and whistled a great deal. I'm guessing they were the young of the party of 4 seen there a couple

of weeks ago and they were trying to find their parents. Other birds were quite a number of robins, a few Tomtits, 3+ Kakariki. a kaka, Morepork and lots of weka.
The traps held 1 stoat and 20 rats, with another 10 rats along the road recently.
Another trip next month. Cheers, Chris

Richmond Hills:

Native Bird Recovery Richmond: NBRR - Neil Page Reports:

Ro Cambridge is at present contracted by D.O.C. to consult with interested parties to develop a cat management plan to protect the native birds in the Waimea Estuary. The Tasman/Nelson conservation groups recently called a meeting to discuss the above and a cat management plan was produced & presented to Paul Sheldon of TDC for implementation. This plan has been well thought out & is the only practical solution to our nationwide cat problem. It will be very easy to implement, although a change in mindset of the responsibility of keeping a cat may be necessary. A copy will be available to all attendees at the June TDC Biodiversity meeting or by phoning: Maryann Mann - 544 4556 or Neil Page - 544 5418.

Greg & Alison Pickford Reservoir Creek Report: Hi Will, April - 7 mice 6 rats 4 possums (and quite a lot of banana passionfruit and OMB) KRB has been busy between Keiths Walkway and the Reservoir. NBRR has paid for 6 trees and a few shrubby plants for the gully.

March 2016 Catches:

Reservoir Creek Lines: 8 mice, 7 rats, 4 possum.

Jimmy Lee Creek Lines: 4 mice, 6 rats, 1 weasel. 2 possum.

Ron's Valhalla/Jimmy Lee Steps Line: 4 rat.

Allan's Valley Line (off Lodestone): No report.

Saxton Creek: 2 possum.

Thanks to Our Sponsors: Ewing's Poultry; Sarah and Rick Griffin; &



Live and Let Live Project



The Live and Let Live project piloting ways of working collaboratively with local cat owners to protect their pets while also trapping feral cats on the Waimea Inlet. The ultimate aim of the project is to reduce predation on vulnerable native wildlife by both feral and domestic cats. Residents in the pilot area (around Appleby) have been advised of the trapping programme and are already taking up the offer of free microchipping of their cats. If microchipped cats are captured they will be released immediately. The movements of some local cats are being tracked using GPS collars and the results will inform further activities. The project is supported by TDC, Tasman Environmental Trust and DOC. More information is available from www.liveandletlive.com or Project Manager Ro Cambridge liveandletlivenz@gmail.com

Will's Gully Group: Richmond Hills (Since 1999).

More progress at the clearing weeds and new track formation heading towards Grassy Saddle. Getting ready for planting later this month or in June. The usual damage to plants and things on the tracks in the gully during the school holidays. It's so frustrating and makes one really wonder at the slide in personal responsibility.
Photo: Making tracks to Grassy Saddle - Keith & Kevin at work.



Alistair MacKintosh Reports:

Hi Will. Trapping about the same as last month with 4 rats total and 2 mice. The last rat just snuck into the score last night. Started feeding the birds again after stopping over the summer for a while. More Bell

birds than Tuis attending, rather than the other way round as is more usual. Quite a lot of Moreporks calling locally, close and pretty well every night. Also saw a "Native Falcon" fly over about 4 one afternoon. Came from further out over Richmond and I got growled at for calling it a "Sparrow Hawk". Told that it was not "politically correct" and that I must be old fashioned. Have not seen one for quite some time, but I still recognised its wing beat instantly. Weka's still quite common, and quite handy for disposing of unwanted dead rats. Or perhaps it's one of the cats that seem to be on the increase in this neck of the woods. Whatever, It is great to see the increase in native bird life. Regards to all, Alastair.

Catches for April: 4 mice, 4 rats.

Total pest eradicated since 2008: 983. - Using



Check out our Facebook Page: *Wills Gully Conservation Group* (It's updated now and then!)

Mike Oliver Reports from the Fire Lookout: Catches so far in this 2015 - 16; fire season (to end of April 2016) are; 1 mouse, 9 rats, 2 cat, 3 possum and 1 hare.

Jody Stow Reports from Supplejack Valley (Motere Valley) & Around:

Supplejack Valley - 8 possums.

Ian's Block - 3 possums and 1 hedgehog.

My total catch for the month of April is: 11 possums and 1 hedgehog.

Upcoming Kea Event



KCT Annual Winter Roadshow

7:00pm Thursday 30 June at the Lake Rotoiti Community Hall. Put it in your diaries now.

St Arnaud welcomes the Kea Conservation Trust team. Hear about the projects they have worked over the last twelve months.

More information nearer to the event. - *All welcome*

From Paremata Flat & Uri (Bishops Peninsular), Cable Bay:

Ian Price Reports: Hi Will, The two features for the month of May has been has been the increase in Mice numbers on Uri and the continuing high Mice numbers at both Paremata and Maori Pa Rd trap lines, despite the increase in mice numbers on Uri, when we look at the annual monthly comparison we don't see allot of difference in catch numbers. (see below) Monitoring results both at Uri and Paremata are remaining high; all prints are mice, except for one Hedgehog at Paremata, this is despite removing in total nearly 160 mice for the month from all the lines. At both Uri and Paremata we see widespread mice coverage (multiple prints on most cards) at Uri monitoring mice prints came in at just under 50%, at Paremata 80% with the one Hedgehog, frustrating we are not having success in reducing Mice numbers, on a positive note however we are controlling the higher predators like rats, weasels and stoats, a significant reason for the high mice numbers.

Catches for the month of April for the three sites;

Uri - 58 Mice, 2 Rats, 1 Possum

Paremata - 57 Mice, 4 Rats, 3 H/Hogg

Maori Pa Rd - 44 Mice, 1 Rat, 1 H/Hogg

Uri Monthly Annual Catch Comparisons

Year	Rat	Mouse	Stoat	Weasel	Possum	Line Checks
04/2016	2	58			1	9
04/2015	16	62				11
04/2014	7	65			1	11
04/2013	5	43				6
04/2012	3	36				6
04/2011	6	36		1		5

Paremata Flats Monthly Comparisons

Year	Rats	Mice	Stoat	Weasel	Hedgehog	Rabbit	Cat	No of checks
April 2013	8	46	2	1		1		
April 2014	11	45			2	1		
April 2015	6	40	3		2			
April 2016	4	57			3			11

That about sums things up Will for the month, Bird life remains active, especially on Uri, two weeks ago I observed a Bellbird feeding young, which I would have thought was extremely late in the season, reflecting ample food, low predator numbers perhaps, but just as importantly reflecting an extremely mild autumn.

As an aside, Planting at Paremata!!, or more precisely the lack of it, due to it having been the driest autumn since we first started planting, no further planting has been undertaken since the first week of April, we have spent the rest of the month watering to ensure the new plantings stay alive, to date we have poured on 14500 litres of water, frankly I have had a guts full of watering plants and weather reports indicating rain, which never arrives, it must start raining soon and therefore back into planting!! Cheers, Ian

Contacts: Website www.paremataflats.co.nz - email: ian.price@xtra.co.nz

The Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust: Extracts from their newsletter;



Birdsong Trust plan **S.I Robin release** from Adele Island back to the coastal track! by Pete Gaze, Project Janszoon ornithologist
 ...We are planning to move 20-40 birds, ensuring that this does not affect the viability of the island population. With a predator-free island such as Motuarerounui the robin numbers have rapidly built up to carrying capacity and regular cropping removes birds which would otherwise be lost due to resource competition...

Restoration planting volunteer opportunities in ATNP and beyond!

The projects below are mainly in the Abel Tasman, but some are further afield: please contact Helen Lindsay at helenlindsay3@gmail.com if you are interested or would like further info.

- Releasing trees at Tinline camp, Abel Tasman National Park.
- Weed control and planting at Anchorage Bay, Abel Tasman National Park.
- Releasing trees and planting at Hadfields Clearing, Awaroa, northern Abel Tasman NP.
- Planting at Medlands Beach and weed control at Bark Bay, Abel Tasman National Park.

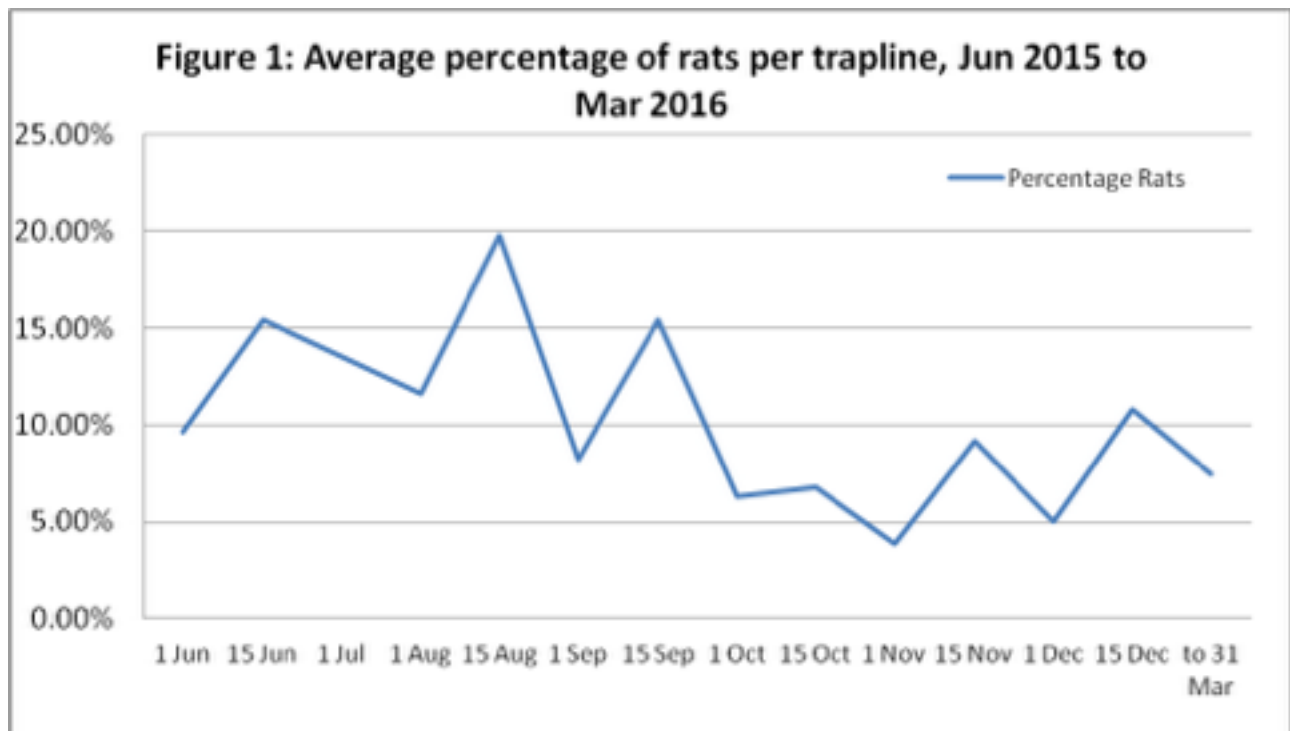
- Planting at Apple Tree Bay and Coquille Bay, Abel Tasman National Park.
- Planting at Kokorua Sandspit and wetland, Whangamoia Valley, north of Nelson
- Nursery work - sowing seeds, potting plants, and weeding pots for local restoration projects (the nursery is situated at the DOC office on the corner of King Edward Street and High Street in Motueka).
- Releasing trees and planting at Otuwhero wetland, Marahau.
- Weed control and planting at Tapu Bay.

Trapping Report August - October 2015

We have started using a new online system developed by DOC and Whio Forever for trap catch data entry. This allows us to produce “hot-spot” maps... so that we can visualise which traps are catching consistently and perhaps target those areas more intensively. Over time, this will allow us to focus our resources on high-catch areas and perhaps remove traps that are not doing much! In addition, we can compare our results with other groups across New Zealand and ensure we are keeping up with best practice.

Our running totals to date are: 2222 rats, 164 stoats, 104 possums, 28 mice, 14 weasels, and 6 hedgehogs!

Catch rates are remaining below 10%, which is great news! The following graph outlines some of the key results for the last few months.



Contacts: Sandy Stephens: Trustee, Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust: Tel/fax: +64-3-548 9302: Mobile 021 0760390. Email: sandy.stephens@clear.net.nz www.abeltasmanbirdsong.co.nz/ and on Facebook.

Aniseed Valley: Martyn & Su Fisher report (QE 2 covenanted lifestyle block) -

Our catch for April was 1 stoat, 3 rats, and 5 mice.

Our home & QEII covenant is for sale: see TradeMe I.D. EGZ733.

Rabbit Island Trapping Group:



Photo: Some of the baits being used.

Catches during April 2016:

Eastern End:

Nn Northwest: 6 mice, 1 hedgehog.

Nn South: 9 mice, 2 rats, 3 hedgehog.

Nn Monaco/Beach East: 3 mice, 2 stoat, 1 weasel (pond).

Mapua End: 8 mice, 6 rats, 7 hedgehogs.

Caretakers House: 3 mice, 2 rats.

Wetland: 7 mice.

Thanks to Olsen's for clearing some service tracks for us.

-Thanks to Our Sponsors: Ewing's Poultry; Olsen's Forestry Management &



If anyone is interested in joining Contact: Gillian Pollock g.pollock@scorch.co.nz ; Ron Argue ph 544 0841 - rpargue@xtra.co.nz ; or Will Rickerby - ph 544 2929 willrickerby@gmail.com



I'm running a **webinar tonight (May 5th)** with Darren Peters from DOC on the DOC trapping series (150/200/250 traps) at 7.30pm.

Online discussions allow people to hear from an expert and ask questions. It is easy for them to sign in from their computer or smart phone.

People can expect to learn how to use the DOC series of traps in the most effective way (for different pest animals), trap placement, about the most effective lures, about some of the landscape scale projects Darren's involved in. Darren also has expertise in species management if you have any questions.

So, if you know of any groups that might be keen to be part of this, send them this link to sign up: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5850135607911960068>

I'm trialling this approach and if there is enough interest, I intend to run some more.

Rebecca Bell
Predator Free NZ Trust
Ph: 021 115 6450
www.predatorfreenz.org

Submissions/reports from voluntary conservation groups are welcome. To subscribe, any queries, or comments - phone or email. Thanks for your efforts,
- Will Rickerby, (ph 544 2929) willrickerby@gmail.com www.willrickerby.com

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